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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,502	02/22/2002	Kimberlee A. Kemble	BOC9-2001-0017 (261)	1503

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EXAMINER	
SERROU, ABDELALI	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/081,502	KEMBLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abdelali Serrou	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 April 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 February 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. In response to the office action from 01/27/2006, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed on 04/27/2006, amending claims 1, 6, 10, and 15.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 4/27/2006 have been fully considered but are not found persuasive.

With regard to claims applicant 1, 6, 10, and 15, applicant argues (Remarks, pages 11-14) that McAllister does not teach determining which data fields are more suitable for effecting disambiguation. The examiner notes that the limitation upon which applicant bases his argument (i.e, not determining which data fields are more suitable for effecting disambiguation) is not recited in the rejected claim. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant argues that McAllister does not perform any processing step that leads to a selection of particular data fields to be used for identifying a retrieved database entry. The examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that McAllister teaches a process step that leads to a selection of particular data fields to be used for identifying a retrieved database entry (col. 3, lines 34-54, wherein the system uses a hierarchical search pattern to identify distinguishing information).

Applicant argues that McAllister does not teach any step for determining whether a speech interface is configured to accurately render a pronunciation of data items within common data fields. The examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that McAllister teaches determining whether a speech interface is configured to accurately render a pronunciation of data items within common data fields (col. 7, lines 46-64, and col. 8, lines 44-65, wherein additional processing and database are provided to resolve the ambiguity of the listings when the listings disambiguation that leads to an accurate pronunciation is not configured.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1, 3, 6-12, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McAlister et al., Patent No. 6,421,672.

5. As per claims 1 and 10, McAllister et al. teach a method for disambiguating search results (see abstract) comprising:

retrieving multiple database entries (multiple listings, col. 2, line 42-51) responsive to a database search, wherein the retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields (primary key and secondary data fields, col. 2, lines 53 and 60; and col. 5, line 6);

processing data items in the data fields for determining whether a speech interface is configured to accurately render a pronunciation of data items within common data fields (see col. 7, lines 46-63, and col. 8, lines 44-65, wherein additional processing and database are provided to resolve the ambiguity of the listings when the listings disambiguation that leads to an accurate pronunciation is not configured.);

based on processing, selecting at least one data field (location field, col. 3, line 45) from the plurality of common data fields suitable for uniquely identifying each retrieved database entry; and

presenting, through the speech interface (speech signal), data items corresponding to the selected data field for each retrieved database entry (see col. 5, lines 49-54), wherein said speech interface is used in conjunction with a system in which said database search is performed (see Fig. 1, field 34a and col. 7, lines 63-67), and wherein said speech interface provides users of said system with an interface for searching for information contained within a database in which said database search was conducted and with an interface for audibly receiving results of said database search, (see col. 9, lines 37-67).

6. As per claims 6 and 15, McAllister et al. teach a method for disambiguating search results (see abstract) comprising:

retrieving multiple database entries (multiple listings, col. 2, line 42-51) responsive to a database search, wherein the retrieved database entries include a plurality of common data fields (primary key and secondary data fields, col. 2, lines 53 and 60; and col. 5, line 6);

processing data items in the data fields of said retrieved database entries (Fig 1, element 12) according to predetermined speech interface criteria (pronunciation rules, col. 5, line 23), said processing step including at least one processing task for determining whether the speech interface is configured to accurately render a pronunciation of data items within said common data fields (see col. 7, lines 46-63, and col. 8, lines 44-65, wherein additional processing and database are provided to resolve the ambiguity of the listings when the listings disambiguation that leads to an accurate pronunciation is not configured.);

based upon said processing, selecting at least one data field (location field, col. 3, line 45) from the plurality of common data fields for uniquely identifying each retrieved database entry (Fig. 5, steps, 208-212); and

querying as to which one of said common data fields, which uniquely identify each of said retrieved database entries, is to be used to disambiguate said retrieved database entries, . . (see col. 3, lines 34-54 and Fig. 1).

7. As per claims 2, 9, 11, and 18, McAllister et al. teach a method wherein said processing step comprises excluding, form said selecting step, data fields of said retrieved database entries having common data items, (see col. 2, lines 52-65).

8. As per claims 3, 7, 12, and 16, McAllister et al. teach a method wherein the processing step further comprises:

detecting content within data fields of said retrieved database entries data items that are not able to accurately pronounced using the speech interface, (see Fig. 6, block ". . .listings with exceptional Pronunciations");

excluding from said selecting step data fields having content that is not able to be pronounced using the speech interface, . . ., (see col. 4, lines 23-25, " . . . eliminate unlikely pronunciations").

9. As per claims 8 and 17, McAllister et al. teach a method comprising:

receiving a user input specifying a data item associated with said selected data filed to disambiguate said retrieved database entries, (see col. 3, lines 55-65);

presenting through the speech interface, data item: associated with said selected data

field for each said retrieved database entry, wherein the presenting step audibly presents a list . . ., (see col. 3, lines 55-65 and col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 4-5, 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McAllister et al. in view of Gilai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,256,630.

12. As per claim 4, McAllister et al. disclose all the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 4 depends. McAllister et al. fail to explicitly teach "determining a data from said plurality of common data fields having data item with a smallest average length". However, this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Gilai et al. which discloses a database accessing system and method comprising the step of determining a data from said plurality of common data fields having data item with a smallest average length, (see col. 12, part b). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the determining step of Gilai et al. in the processing step of McAllister et al., because this would improve the accuracy and efficiency of the data retrieval process by providing the best selected candidate entries (Gilai, col. 16, pages 14-23).

13. As per claim 5, McAllister et al. and Gilai et al. disclose all the limitations of

claim 3, upon which claim 5 depends. Gilai et al further teach excluding data fields having data items that exceed a predetermined maximum threshold . . ., (see col. 12, part c and col. 7, lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the similarity method of Gilai et al. (which meets the claimed limitation of "empirical analysis of relative ease") to the system of McAllister, because this would improve the accuracy and efficiency of the retrieval process by providing the best selected candidate entries (Gilai, col. 16, pages 14-23).

14. As per claim 13, McAllister et al. disclose all the limitations of claim 12, upon which claim 13 depends. McAllister et al. fail to explicitly teach "determining a data from said plurality of common data fields having data item with a smallest average length". However, this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Gilai et al. which disclose a database accessing system and method comprising the step of determining a data from said plurality of common data fields having data item with a smallest average length, (see col. 12, part b). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the determining step of Gilai et al. in the processing step of McAllister et al. because Gilai et al. teach one of ordinary skill in the art the benefit of determining data fields having data item with a small average length to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the retrieval process by providing the best selected candidate entries (Gilai, col. 16, pages 14-23).

15. As per claim 14, McAllister et al. disclose all the limitations of claim 12, upon which claim 14 depends. McAllister et al. fail to explicitly teach excluding data fields having data items that exceed a predetermined maximum threshold . . . However, this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Gilai et al. which disclose a database accessing system and method

comprising the step of excluding data fields having data items that exceed a predetermined maximum threshold . . .(see col. 12, part c and col. 7, lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the similarity method of Gilai et al. (which meets the claimed limitation of "empirical analysis of relative case" to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the retrieval process by providing the best selected candidate entries (Gilai, col. 16, pages 14-23).

Conclusion

16. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

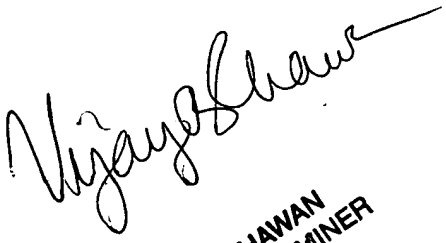
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdelali Serrou whose telephone number is 571-272-7638. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis I. Smits can be reached on 571-272-7628. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A. Serrou
7/22/2006



VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER